

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ADANA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL IZMIR IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, ESTC, TU

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SUBJECT: ACTION ON ADMINISTRATION EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
PROPOSAL BY SFRC

1. IN COURSE OF MARKING-UP FY 1979 SECURITY ASSISTANCE
AUTHORIZATION BILL, SFRC VOTED MAY 11 BY 8 VOTES TO 4 TO
REJECT ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL FOR REPEAL OF ARMS EMBARGO
ON TURKEY. VOTING WITH ADMINISTRATION WERE SENATORS SPARK-

MAN, CHURCH, MCGOVERN AND PEARSON; VOTING AGAINST WERE SENATORS PELL, CLARK, BIDEN, STONE, SARBANES, HUMPHREY, JAVITS AND PERCY; ABSENT FOR THE VOTE WERE SENATORS CASE, GRIFFIN, BAKER AND GLENN. BY VOICE VOTE, COMMITTEE APPROVED ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS FOR FMS CREDIT LEVELS OF DOLS 175 MILLION FOR TURKEY AND DOLS 140 MILLION FOR GREECE, AND FOR DOLS 50 MILLION SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LOAN FOR TURKEY. COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION AMENDMENT OFFERED BY SENATOR PELL (FOR WHICH HE SAID GRIFFIN WAS CO-SPONSOR) TO RAISE REFUGEE ASSISTANCE FOR CYPRUS TO DOLS 15 MILLION (ADMINISTRATION HAD REQUESTED DOLS 5 MILLION).

2. EX-KING CONSTANTINE, WHO HAD LUNCHEDED EARLIER AS GUEST SENATOR PELL WITH SARBANES AND PROBABLY OTHER SENATORS PRESENT, ATTENDED MOST OF SFRC SESSION SITTING WITH OTHER PUBLIC SPECTATORS. EX-KING WAS RECOGNIZED BY SENATORS PELL AND

CHURCH, TO SCATTERED APPLAUSE, FOLLOWING VOTE ON TURKISH EMBARGO. CYPRUS AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU AND OFFICERS FROM GREEK, TURKISH, AND CYPRIOT EMBASSIES AS WELL AS PRESS WERE ALSO PRESENT FOR SESSION.

3. LATE AFTERNOON MAY 11 WITHIN FEW MINUTES OF SFRC VOTE ASSTSEC VEST TELEPHONED TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL. VEST SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SULT WITH SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY AND DID NOT HAVE DETAILS ON HOW INDIVIDUAL SENATORS VOTED, HE WANTED ESENBEL TO KNOW THE RESULTS IMMEDIATELY. VEST SAID HE WANTED TO STRESS FOLLOWING THREE POINTS. A) ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN WORKING HARD EACH DAY OVER LAST SEVERAL WEEKS TO PERSUADE INDIVIDUAL SENATORS. THERE HAD BEEN BREAKFASTS WITH THE SECRETARY AND FREQUENT INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS. B) TIMING OF SENATE COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROPOSALS HAD BEEN BAD IN SENSE THAT COMMITTEE WAS ASKED TO VOTE ON DIFFICULT ISSUE WHILE SEIZED WITH ANOTHER EXTREMELY UPSETTING AND AGGRAVATING PROBLEM, I.E. MIDDLE EAST AIRCRAFT PROPOSALS ON WHICH SFRC HAD VOTED EARLIER MAY 11. C) SFRC ACTION MAY 11 WAS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN THE SENATE. PROPOSAL TO REPEAL EMBARGO WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE INTRODUCED WHEN SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL DEBATED ON SENATE FLOOR. WHOLE SENATE WOULD THUS HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON QUESTION. VEST ALSO REMINDED ESENBEL THAT HIRC HAD SUPPORTED EMBARGO REPEAL.

4. ESENBEL SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT VEST COMMENTS TO ANKARA. HE ADDED THAT DESPITE VEST EFFORT TO PUT MATTER INTO PERSPECTIVE SFRC RESULTS LOOKED VERY BAD AND WOULD BE

A CAUSE FOR SOME CONCERN TO GOT.

5. FOR BONN. IN VIEW OF CURRENT ECEVIT VISIT TO FRG, PLEASE STRESS TO FOREIGN MINISTRY EARLY MAY 12 THAT DESPITE MAY 11 SFRC ACTION ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STRONGLY REPEAL OF EMBARGO AND WOULD HOPE THAT FRG OFFICIALS COULD SO CONFIRM TO ECEVIT AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY. YOU CAN ALSO DRAW ON POINTS STRESSED BY VEST IN PARA 3 ABOVE IN GIVING DEPARTMENT'S INTERPRETATION OF CURRENT ESTIMATE.

6. FOR USNATO. PLEASE INFORM LUNS ALONG LINES USED BY VEST - PARA 3 ABOVE. YOU SHOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT ADMINISTRATION IS MAKING SERIOUS, SUSTAINED EFFORT TO SUC-CONFIDENTIAL

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CEED ON THIS PRIORITY INITIATIVE WITH THE CONGRESS.

7. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES. YOU MAY ALSO POINT OUT THAT SFRC VOTE WAS MUCH CLOSER THAN THE 8-4 MARGIN WOULD SUGGEST. FOUR SENATORS WERE ABSENT. THREE OF THE FOUR CERTAINLY FAVOR REPEALING THE EMBARGO AND WILL SO VOTE ON THE SENATE FLOOR. THE FOURTH IS GENERALLY UNDECIDED, BUT COULD NOT IN CONSCIENCE VOTE TO MAINTAIN THE EMBARGO. THIS MEANS THERE COULD HAVE BEEN AN 8-8 TIE. HOWEVER, UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ADMINISTRATION POSITION WOULD NOT HAVE CARRIED. VANCE

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